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**NEW REPORT PROVIDES BALANCED, COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY  
TO MEET FUTURE FRONT RANGE WATER DEMANDS**

*Colorado's Conservation Community Releases Vision for Next 25 Years*

Denver, CO – Western Resource Advocates, Trout Unlimited, and the Colorado Environmental Coalition released a new report today on how to satisfy demands for water along the Front Range for the next 25 years. *Facing Our Future: A Balanced Water Solution for Colorado* presents a balanced approach for increasing the Front Range's water supply faster with less harm to the environment and much less controversy than water projects have faced in the past.

"Colorado needs a broad-based, solution-oriented plan to satisfy growing urban water demands that won't break the bank, squeeze our rivers dry, or cause years of delay and political battles over transbasin diversions," said Elise Jones, executive director of the Colorado Environmental Coalition. "It's time to face our future."

With Colorado's arid climate, the recent severe drought and the state's growing population, new demands for water and pressure on water sources in the state have dramatically increased. In the past, the typical approach to boosting water supply involved building a large new dam and filling it with water often taken from a river basin in a different part of the state. Such water projects have frequently turned into hostile battlegrounds for competing water demands and values. In order to change this dynamic, members of the Colorado conservation community have developed this portfolio of strategies that prioritizes water conservation and efficiency, and protection of Colorado's world-famous rivers.

"There is no single, simple solution for meeting Colorado's future water needs," said Melinda Kassen, Director of Trout Unlimited's Colorado Water Project. "We based our model on cooperation and "smart" water supply and storage principles to ensure *all* water demands are met, including those of the environment and Colorado's flourishing recreational economy."

"This model also ensures new water projects would conserve, protect, and restore our rivers and streams, many of which are already degraded from present diversions," added Kassen.

Examples of the balanced strategies in the model include:

- improving urban residential water conservation, both indoors and outdoors
- improving cooperation between water providers, including the joint maintenance or operation of water supply infrastructure
- greater "sharing" of water between different types of users, through temporary transfers
- boosting reuse of already developed water supplies
- expansion or rehabilitation of existing dams, reservoirs, and diversion structures
- construction of a few, strategically located new storage facilities

"*Facing Our Future* demonstrates that water conservation and efficiency are the quickest and easiest ways to deliver lots of new water to urban areas," said Bart Miller, Water Program Director for Western Resource Advocates. "For example, in the South Platte basin, even a modest boost in indoor and outdoor residential water conservation would save enough water to provide for more than 200,000 new households."

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“In addition, if we save water in our cities, we have to borrow less water from farmers, which will help preserve Colorado’s agricultural heritage and rural communities,” said Miller.

*Facing Our Future* discusses the impacts of Front Range water demands on the West Slope, including the area’s agriculture and water-based recreation economies. It also analyzes proposed new water supply sources and projects in the South Platte and Arkansas River Basins and determines that several have the potential to meet the “smart” principles described in the report.